CLAIMS

1. A method for authenticating an exchange of radio identifiers in a system having a device (10,20) and a remote control unit (30), both of which operate in compliance with a predetermined radio protocol (50), comprising:

exchanging respective radio identifiers (60b,60a),

generating a key sequence to be input for authentication (84),

issuing a request to a user for said key sequence to be input (86),

authenticating the input key sequence with that generated (90), and

storing (98) the remote control unit identifier to enable control in dependence on said authentication.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the key sequence for authentication is randomly generated.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the key sequence is randomly generated in accordance with input means (14,24) of the device.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the key sequence request is output on a display (22).

5. A method according to claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the key sequence request is output on an audio speaker (12).

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the input key sequence is obtained via input means (14,24) of the device.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein the input key sequence is obtained via input means (32) of the remote control unit.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the user input key sequence must be input within a predefined time period.

9. A system comprising a radio remote control unit (30) for controlling a device (10,20) having communication means (40a) for communicating with said remote control unit according to a predetermined radio protocol (50) and in which radio identifiers (60a,60b) are defined, the system further comprising means (42) for generating a key sequence for authentication, means (12,22) for issuing a request to a user for said key sequence to be input, means for receiving (42,14,24) and authenticating the input key sequence with that generated, and means for storing the radio identifier (60a) of the remote control unit (30) to enable control at least in part in dependence on said authentication.

10. A device (10,20) for use with the system of claim 9, further comprising audiovisual means (12,22) by which the key sequence request is issued to a user.

11. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the input key sequence is input by input means (14,24) of said device.

12. A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the means for receiving the input key sequence comprise a radio receiver (44) of said communication means (40a).

13. A device as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the communication means for communicating with said remote control unit according to a predetermined radio protocol comprise a radio module (40a,40b,40c) operating according to the ZigBee radio protocol.